

SEVERE WEATHER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Don't be fooled! Although nice weather prevails the majority of the time in southern California, severe weather is not uncommon and can affect this region any time of the year. Over 750 weather spotters covering our forecast area have helped

forecasters in the warning decision process.
www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=lox

CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network)



A grassroots network of 11,000 volunteers across the United States who take rain, hail and snowfall depth measurements in their own backyards. CoCoRaHS data is entered into a web based program which instantly provides the NWS with data for possible

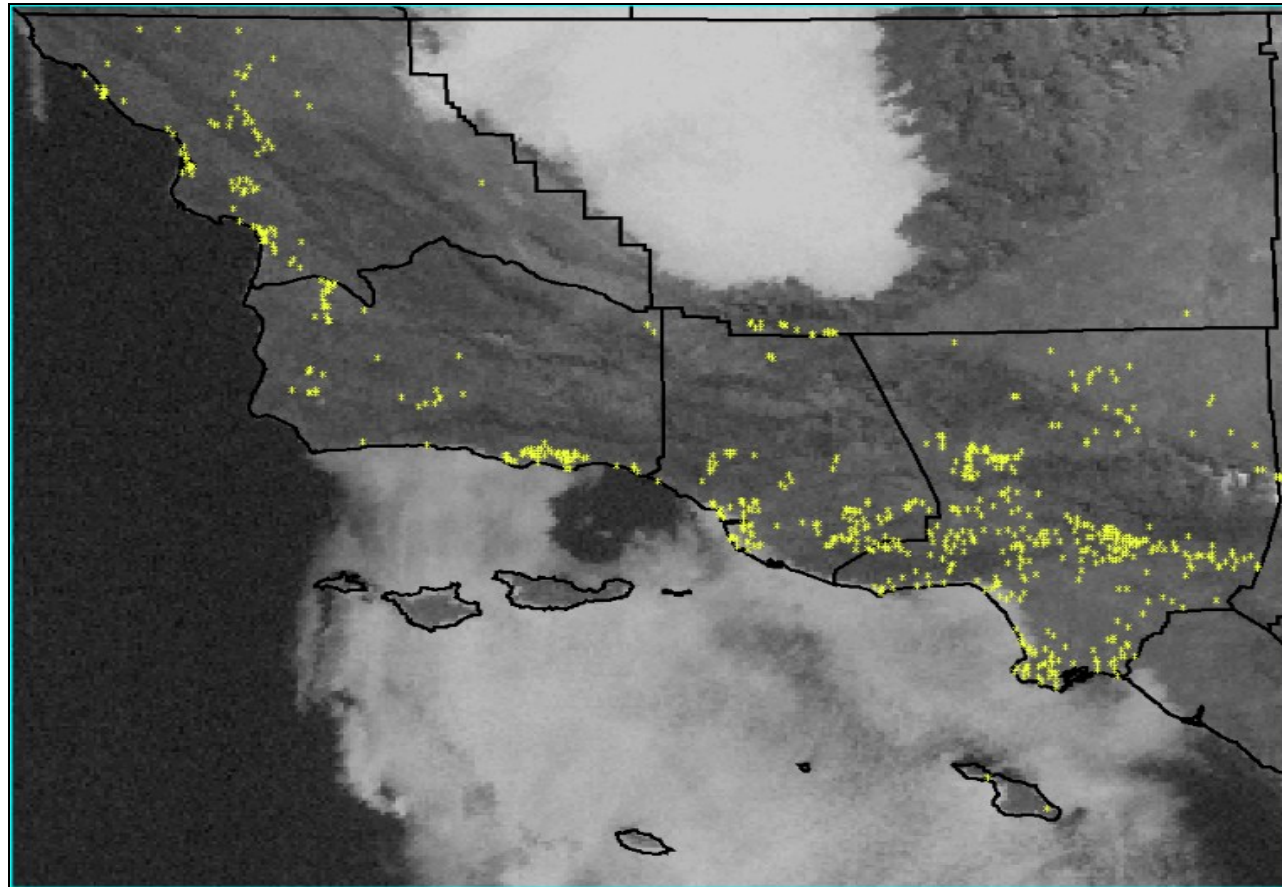
Severe Weather Warnings, as well as supplements and enhances the Spotter network.
<http://www.cocorahs.org/>



The Spotter Network allows registered observers to submit real time critical storm reports to local NWS offices while traveling. Reports are disseminated through NWS online e-Spotter, as well as the NWS Storm Prediction Center "Storm Reports" www.spotternetwork.org



SPOTTER PROGRAM



OVER 1200 SPOTTERS ON BOARD...

HOW ABOUT YOU ?

WHEN YOU REGISTER TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL SPOTTER FOR THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AT OXNARD, YOU RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

- PERSONAL SPOTTER ID CARD AND REFRIGERATOR MAGNET
- TOLL FREE SPOTTER ACCESS NUMBER TO CALL IN SPOTTER REPORTS 24/7 (365 DAYS)
- INFORMATION PACKET ON HOW TO CALL IN SPOTTER REPORTS
- ACCESS TO JOIN **E-SPOTTER** ONLINE
- ACCESS TO JOIN COCORAHHS (**Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network**)
- YEARLY NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION TO **WEATHER OR NOT**

BECOME AN OFFICIAL NWS WEATHER SPOTTER FOR THE OXNARD OFFICE

If you live in the following counties:

- **Los Angeles**
- **Ventura**
- **Santa Barbara**
- **San Luis Obispo**



New! Join On-line at the following site:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/spotter/course/>

SEVERE WEATHER CRITERIA (as defined by the NWS)

- **Wind gusts 58 mph or greater**
- **Hail 3/4" (dime / penny) or larger**
- **Tornadoes or Water Spouts**
- **Flash Flooding**

In addition to any of the above official severe weather criteria, the NWS in Oxnard would appreciate reports on any of the following weather conditions

- **Report 1/4" to 1/2" Hail (pea to marble)**
- **Wind gusts greater than 35 mph.**
- **Excessive rainfall that would potentially lead to flooding or flash flooding.**
- **High Surf of greater than 6 feet.**

<http://www.weather.gov/os/severeweather/>



LIGHTNING FACTS

- Travels around 90,000 miles per second
- Temperature near 54,000 ° F
- 3 X Hotter than the Sun



SEVERE WEATHER PRODUCTS

WATCH - Issued when conditions are favorable for a weather event that can threaten life and/or property. Generally issued 12 to 24 hours ahead of event.

WARNING - Issued when weather hazard is either imminent or has been reported. A warning indicates the need to take action to protect life and property.

ADVISORY - Issued when conditions exist that cause significant inconvenience. It might lead to a watch or warning.

FLASH FLOOD FACTS

#1 Weather Related Killer!



- Kills more people than any other weather related hazard.
- Potential to occur anywhere in the nation.
- Nearly half of all flash flood related fatalities are vehicle related.
- More than 75% of Presidential Disaster Declarations are the result of flooding.

Flood Safety Information



Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) is a NOAA National Weather Service campaign to warn people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters.

<http://tadd.weather.gov/>

Sources of Information

- NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard Fast Page
<http://www.wr.noaa.gov/lox/fastpage/>
- e-Spotter on-line
spotter.weather.gov
- Storm Prediction Center
spc.noaa.gov

What is Skywarn?



Skywarn is a group of proactive volunteer weather spotters, as well as many licensed HAM operators who provide vital real-time observational data. A number of local HAM organizations work closely with the Los Angeles/Oxnard forecast office. Skywarn is particularly active across Tornado Alley.
<http://www.skywarn.org/>

National Association for Amateur Radio

During hazardous weather conditions, the NWS coordinates with local amateur radio operators to get vital information through their extensive communication network.
<http://www.arrl.org/>



NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)

NWR is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
<http://www.weather.gov/nwr/>

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPOTTERS

- Compare reality to what radar and satellite indicate
- Spotter reports help with warning decisions.
- Verify current forecasts and warnings



Your spotter reports may save lives and property!

<http://www.wr.noaa.gov/lox/spotter/>

NWS MISSION

The NWS mission is to provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas for the protection of life and property, and the enhancement of the national economy.



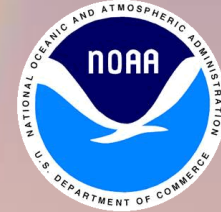
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The National Weather Service (NWS) is a federal agency under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is part of the Department of Commerce (DOC).

AA/National Weather Service
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www.weather.gov/losangeles



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

WEATHER SPOTTER PROGRAM

WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

LOS ANGELES/OXNARD

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